

*8 Nov Registry*

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

FROM : [REDACTED]  
 Acting Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

SUBJECT : Electronic Transmission of MIDAS Data to P&PD

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1. The MIDAS Program, as you know, involves the procurement of a computer-based system to automate the output of the FBIS Wire Service and the production of the FBIS Daily Report books in a form suitable for input into Printing and Photography Division's phototypesetter. Phase I, covering the automation of the Wire Service and two of the eight Daily Report books, is nearing the completion of Factory Acceptance Test, after which the equipment will be moved into FBIS facilities in Key Building. Following installation and check-out, training of FBIS system operators, communications operators and the final group of editors, and conduct of DCA-required tests and System Acceptance Test, the Phase I MIDAS should achieve its Initial Operational Capability in February 1983. Magnetic tape outputs of the South Asia and Middle East and Africa books will be hand-carried to P&PD, along with the mats for the remaining six books, by the present courier system.

2. Phase II MIDAS calls for the electronic transmission of the photocomposed versions of all eight Daily Report books from Key Building to P&PD. Prior to giving the contractor full go-ahead for Phase II implementation, FBIS and the MIDAS Program Office are instituting a four- to six-month funded concept definition effort to further refine the particular communications-related aspects as well as to investigate system improvements presently identified and those which might derive out of the initial operating period of the Phase I system.

3. The most attractive means of passing the Phase II unclassified product to P&PD appears to be via a C&P Telephone Company dedicated leased line, utilizing modems at each end, i.e. 11th floor Key Building and P&PD's building. This approach assumes that P&PD will be able to have hardware and software which can receive and store the transmitted data for later input into the phototypesetter or laser platemakers. Attachment 1 depicts a suggested hardware setup for P&PD covering the handling of the MIDAS input with storage on a P&PD magnetic tape which could then be loaded into the phototypesetter when needed.

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Later, these tapes could be loaded into P&PD's future mass disk storage via the File Management subsystem of the Digital Prepress System, thus avoiding any security problems. The estimated hardware cost for the Digital Equipment Corporation equipment in Attachment 1 is less than \$50,000. Software responsibilities need to be worked out between the MIDAS Program Office and P&PD to assure overall compatibility.

4. Based on current Phase II schedule estimates, Full Operational Capability with electronic transmission to P&PD could be achieved as early as late fall of 1983. Therefore, it is prudent that you and P&PD accomplish the necessary planning and procurements to meet the above requirements. Please let me know if you have any questions.

STAT

Attachments: a/s

cc: Chief, P&PD  
MIDAS Program Director